



**United States Attorney's Office
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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 1020**

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DETROIT MAN FOUND GUILTY OF INTERNATIONAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

A Detroit man was found guilty today by a federal jury in Ann Arbor, Michigan on all 18 counts of an indictment charging him with conspiracy to deal in firearms without a license, being a felon in possession of a firearm, attempted possession with intent to distribute ecstasy and carrying and using a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking offense, announced United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade.

McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Detroit Field Division (ATF).

Found guilty was Terrance Coles, 25, of Detroit, Michigan. Coles has a previous drug felony conviction which barred him from possessing any firearms.

The jury deliberated for approximately 2 hours before returning the verdict, concluding a 6-day trial before United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

The evidence presented during trial showed that from February 2008 through June 2008, Coles was the ring leader in a conspiracy to smuggle guns from the United States into Canada. Coles sold 35 firearms to individuals he believed were ecstasy dealers when in fact the ecstasy dealers were actually undercover constables with the Toronto Police Department. Coles was ultimately arrested after a sting operation set up by ATF in Detroit.

United States Attorney McQuade stated, "Cases like this should put gun traffickers on notice that we are aggressively prosecuting firearms violations to reduce gun violence."

Special Agent in Charge Brandon stated, "Illegal guns contribute to the unnecessary violence in our cities. The guns recovered in this case, demonstrate the strong commitment of United States and Canadian law enforcement to eradicate the illegal buying and selling of guns across our borders."

Coles will be sentenced on November 16, 2010 and faces a sentence of 360 months to life in prison.

United States Attorney McQuade and ATF Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon praised the work of the investigators of the Windsor Police Department, Toronto Police Department, as well as the Ontario Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit, Canadian Border Services Agency, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case was investigated by special agents of ATF, The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Louis Gabel and Justin Letts.